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Letter dated 12 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire issued on 9 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire issued on 9 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the meeting held in Yamoussoukro on Thursday, 4 December 2003, between the national armed forces and those of the New Forces under the chairmanship of the Head of State and Supreme Commander, with a view to resuming the vital and urgent process of assembling and disarming the opposing military forces.

It applauds the statements made by President Gbagbo, clearly expressing his resolve to apply the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement (S/2003/99, annex I) in full.

It now trusts that the commitments made at that meeting will be scrupulously honoured.

The European Union fully values and encourages these positive developments, which hold out a sign of hope for the swift and full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. It strongly reiterates its call to the New Forces' ministers to resume their participation in the peace process and in government as soon as possible. In view of the decisions just taken in Yamoussoukro, those ministers' continued absence would now be incomprehensible.

The European Union also confirms its willingness to support the reunification and reconstruction of Côte d'Ivoire with all the means at its disposal.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.